Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Hunters, anglers, and trappers were among the first conservationists who supported the establishment of agencies to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and help fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and,

Whereas, The Office of the Governor recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage fish and resident wildlife within our borders resides in the state fish and wildlife agencies; and,

Whereas, Realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers, and trappers supported excise taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration; and,

Whereas, This user pay – public benefit system became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program which began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and was bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950; and,

Whereas, The combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies has exceeded $13 billion since 1939, which collectively constitutes the American System of Conservation Funding; and,

Whereas, The manufacturers of hunting, fishing, and boating equipment have supported the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and continue to exhibit a spirit of cooperation with the state fish and wildlife agencies; and,

Whereas, This cooperative partnership has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring populations throughout the country. The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, through their contributions to the American System of Conservation Funding, will observe their 75th Anniversary year of America's greatest conservation story:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 20, 2012, as

WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State